

**Commodity Advisory Council Meeting**  
**October 23, 2002**  
**Rough River State Park**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Eleanor Hall.

**CAC Members Present:** Joyce Alexander, Martha Dysart, Eleanor Hall, Janie Justice, Phyllis Martin, Sandra McIntosh, Carol McQueen, Jannette Otten, Kathy Payton, Gina Rose, Lisa Sims, Victor Steffen, Janey Thornton.

**CAC Members Absent:** Charlotte White.

**Others Present:** Larry Blundred, Pat Cassetty, Vicki Rodgers, Teresa Ulery.

**Opening Remarks:** Pat Cassetty thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He asked the CAC members what they wanted out of this program and what we (the Division) could do to help them. He said we would supply them with any information that could help them and that he appreciated all the help they give us.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the last Commodity Advisory Council Meeting were read and approved.

**Industry Report:** Larry Blundred said he had just returned from an ACDA Board Meeting in Washington and provided handouts on the following issues: (1) Due to the unprecedented drought situations, USDA decided to utilize Section 32 funds to underwrite farm disaster relief efforts. Using these funds will severely, if not eliminate, USDA's ability to make bonus purchases of surplus commodities; retarding severely bonus commodities coming to the schools for FY 2003. Larry encouraged all CAC members to send letters to Washington voicing their concern over this issue and also encouraged them to join the ACDA organization. (2) Update from California – The Los Angeles Public School System voted to take soda machines out of the schools by 2004 and replace them with other beverages such as water, milk, and beverages that contain at least 50 percent juice and no added sweeteners. More information on this soda ban can be found on the ASFSA web site. (3) Obesity – In order to fight childhood obesity, how can you better prepare the public? Everybody wants to blame the school lunch program. We may need to tighten guidelines for school lunches that are already tight. (4) Larry discussed a letter from Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole asking School Food Service Directors to "Buy American". Larry suggested in their bid work, to ask vendors to supply them with American-made products. (5) Verification of free and reduced-price meals – Verification pilots lead to eligibility declines. The handout discusses the different pilots. The American School Food Service Association (ASFSA) has come out in support of proposed rules to require school districts to file annual reports of their school meals verification activities.

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#### **Pat Cassetty**

**Bidding Processed Foods:** The bidding of processed foods falls under the procurement guidelines under the 210 Regulations in the Department of Education and not under Food Distribution. When you bid processing, if you don't take the lowest bid on an item on the approved end-product list, you do a blind taste test with the students to see which product they prefer. Food Service Directors can't do the taste test; it has to be done by the students. This information is kept on hand for USDA if they ask why you went with that item. Janey Thornton asked if you can take the lowest price and do nothing and Pat said yes. If you take the higher price, you do the taste test. Kathy Payton wanted to know if the price of processing might come down. At times the processing price is close to the purchase price, and that is why some schools don't process. Larry Blundred said the price charged is based on numerous things and is different for each processor.

**New Regulations for Extermination:** Under the new guidelines, the RA notifies everyone the school is going to be sprayed and what it is to be sprayed with and the information goes home to the parents. There are lots of changes that will be discussed at the November conference.

**Use of Commodities for a Disaster:** If it is not a Presidential declared disaster, the odds are you will not get any money back for commodities used.

#### **Vicki Rodgers**

**Draft of Processing Manual and New Forms:** Handed out copies of a draft processing manual for School Food Authorities to the CAC members and asked them to review it and give her any ideas or suggestions they might have. The manual will be handed out at the November conference. A new processing order form which will be filled out on-line and sent to Vicki was discussed, as well as a new Processed Commodity Shipping Report to be filled out by the processor and sent to the distributor at least 24 hours before delivery. Copies will also be sent to the Division of Food Distribution and the recipient agencies so that they will know when their processed products have arrived at the warehouse.

#### **Teresa Ulery**

**Update on Commercial Labeling:** Teresa discussed the Multi-Stop Pilot Project, which involves Kentucky. The trucks delivering commodities in Kentucky can make stop-offs to three destinations as opposed to two stop-offs. She said this had worked out well.

**DOD:** Janey Thornton said she was getting lousy products. Not the quality as when they first started to receive DOD. She will send the Division a note about this. Teresa said she should call Luigi DeSario and let him know. The products should be top quality and Janey should also let us know if they are not. Janey suggested the Division e-mail the Food Service Directors and ask them to let us know when they receive bad DOD produce.

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**USDA Commodity Specifications on Fruits and Vegetables and A Guide to Buying Fresh Fruits and Vegetables** – Handouts were provided to the CAC members on these for them to read and review.

**Summer Food Service Program** – Teresa asked the CAC members if they would like to get money for summer feeding from DOD. The answer was “yes”. We have 1.5 million dollars in entitlement dollars in DOD Funds. We can put more entitlement dollars in DOD next year than 15%. Teresa encouraged CAC to spend the money.

**Meeting Adjourned** – Pat Cassetty closed the meeting by informing the CAC members they could get a lot of useful information from the Division of Food Distribution’s web site. Meeting was adjourned for the day.

## **October 24, 2002**

### **CAC Meeting Reconvened**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Eleanor Hall.

### **Regional Reports**

**Region 1** – Everything is going well.

**Region 2** – No report available.

**Region 3** – Have received frozen eggs, sliced cheese, and American cheese. Waiting for more commodities to arrive. They have opened a beautiful, new school in Pike County. Janie Justice suggested having the spring CAC meeting in East KY and maybe visiting the school. When the date is chosen, Janie will work with a local hotel to make arrangements for the meeting.

**Region 4** – Problems with food deliveries after regular school hours in Rockcastle County. They should take the food back and deliver the next day. The distributor (Gordon’s) is not paying any attention to the date requested for delivery. They deliver to local restaurants before delivering to schools. Gina Rose also has problems with this. Pat said if they didn’t order it, tell them to take it back. Joy at Pineville is having nightmares. We need to find out why.

**Region 5** – No concerns. Everything is going well.

**Region 6** – Had compliments for Clem’s Refrigerated Foods. Very concerned about the way we allocate commodities for processing. Need a breakout session at the November conference for those that process. Need a broker present at the meeting. We will plan to

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have a Processing 101 Session on Tuesday, November 19, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Pat Cassetty asked that anyone interested in planning this session meet after the CAC meeting adjourns.

**Motion** – Janey Thornton moved that CAC add a broker to the Council to complete the cycle of Director, Processor and Broker, and State Department. Jannette Otten seconded the motion. Motion passed. A letter should be sent to all brokers of state-approved processors in KY to find out who would be interested. CAC would then choose the person to serve on the Council.

**Motion** – Janie Justice made a motion that the person representing the brokers would serve a 2-year term, not to coincide with the Industry Representative. An informed person would remain with the Council at all times. The motion was seconded by Kathy Payton. Motion passed.

**Region 7** – Everything is going well. One complaint on Farm-to-School. Watermelons were small, but red and juicy.

**Region 8** – Everything is fine. Sweet potatoes went well.

**Region 9** – No problems. Compliments on breaded chicken.

**RCCI** – Everything is much better. They are receiving commodities now.

**Miscellaneous** – Find out why Charlotte White is not attending. Some CAC members contact the independent schools in their region. There may be too many independent schools for one person.

Janie Justice wants a map that shows each region and what counties are in that region. The Division is putting together a list of e-mail addresses of RAs, names of the Food Service Directors, and telephone numbers.

Entitlement Standings – If you need a list of products you received last year for the auditors, you can call the office and we will walk you through the web site over the phone. When you get back, check your entitlement standings. We need to place orders as soon as possible for any changes in your order. If you have money left, you can order more commodities.

We are putting together another manual on how to place orders and view reports. We are adding the statement “Do not use Back Button”. If you hit the Back Button when placing your order, it throws your order out of the system.

Teresa gave an update on the Administrator’s Conference to be held in November.

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Pat encouraged the CAC members that if there is anything our staff can bring to their staff, please take advantage of the people we have. We will cover any topics you need to have covered. He asked them to pass this on to other Food Service Directors.

**Meeting Adjourned**